

What is TEI Conformance and Why Should You Care?

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Standards: what's your flavour?



- WKWBFY
- WKWWD
- NUMP

Standards : what are they good for?

- hermeneutics
- disambiguation
- syntax **and** semantics

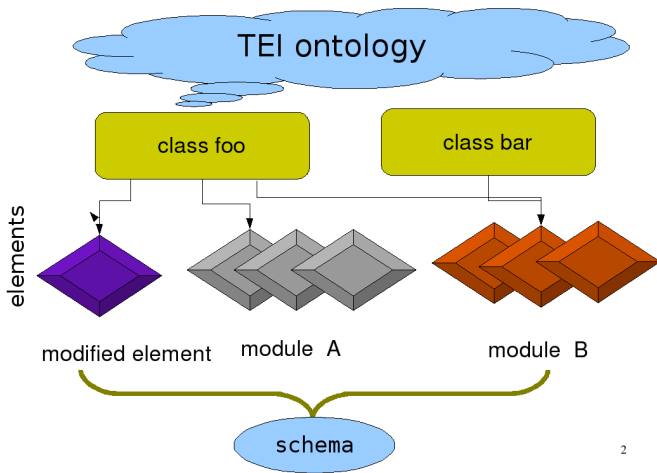
How to document an encoding scheme

- DTD, RELAX NG, W3C Schema, Schematron
- ... and a lot more besides

A TEI element specification

- identifier(s), glosses, descriptions
- class memberships
- content model and other constraints
- local attributes
- processing model
- usage examples, commentary, references

TEI architecture



2

The TEI cornucopia



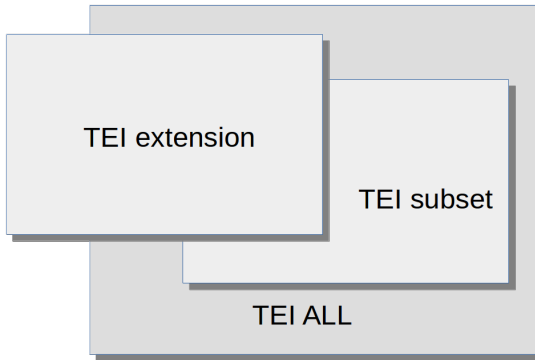
Dealing with complexity

- selection
- modelling
- revising

KISS

Customization is not just selection

- additional constraints
- definitionally true



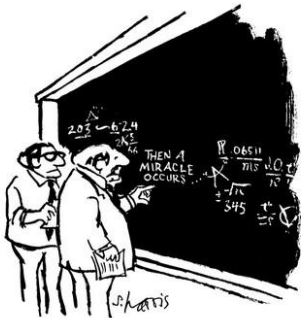
Varieties of Customization

The Inevitability of Extension

- other vocabularies
- community development
- interchange

Unverifiable constraints

- honesty is the best policy
- explicitness



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

What is TEI conformance?

The TEI Commandments

- I. Thou shalt have no other encoding scheme but this one
- II. Honour the consensus that thy days may be long in this land
- III. Thou shalt not take the GIs of this scheme in vain
- IV. Thou shalt not commit polysemy

◁Text Encoding Initiative

650
△

November 1991▷

1991 version

A TEI conformant document (2017 version)

- is a well formed XML document; and
- is valid against one or more schemas, which may be either a TEI subset or a TEI extension; and
- uses elements from the TEI namespace as defined by the TEI Guidelines; and
- fully documents its use of the TEI by means of a TEI-conformant ODD *vel sim*.

.... why you should care



- Beyond the DC pidgin
- Rich well-documented markup is algorithmically conformable
- OTA, DTA, SCTA ...

The challenge has not gone away